

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 2

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 26 with the following:

--The illustrated electrochromic mirror subassembly 120 is commonly referred to as a fourth surface reflector, but it is contemplated that the present invention will work well with third surface reflectors and with other mirror constructions. Accordingly, it is contemplated that a scope of the present invention includes all such mirror constructions and the present description should not be construed as unnecessarily limiting. The illustrated mirror subassembly 120 (Fig. 25) includes front and rear transparent elements 121 and 122 (*e.g.*, glass), electrically conductive layers 123 and 124 on inner surfaces of the transparent elements 121 and 122, respectively, a layer of electrochromic material 125 located between the conductive layers 123 and 124, and a reflective layer 126 on a rear surface of the rear transparent element 122 (*i.e.*, the "fourth" surface of the mirror subassembly 120). A seal 125' extends around an inside perimeter of the transparent elements 121 and 122 to retain the electrochromic material 125, when the electrochromic material 125 is a liquid-phase type, or gel-phase type, or a hybrid of same. (It is noted that a perimeter edge striping may be applied to transparent elements 121 and 122 for aesthetics, which results in a similar appearance.) A portion of the reflective layer 126 is etched away or otherwise removed to define an elongated opening 127 (Fig. 18). The indicia panel 130 is adhered to the reflector layer 126 in a location ~~130'~~ where it covers the opening 127. Light sources 129 are positioned behind the indicia panel 130 to pass light through the indicia panel 130 and through the opening 127 of the electrochromic mirror subassembly 120 to selectively illuminate detailed symbols and information on the indicia panel 130 for viewing by a vehicle driver or passengers. A foam light seal 134 on the indicia panel 130 is located between the printed circuit board 119 and the indicia panel 130, and is shaped (see Fig. 16) to sealingly engage the printed circuit board 119 and the indicia panel 130 to prevent light leakage around the indicia panel 130. Specifically, the foam light seal 134 (*i.e.*, a baffle subassembly) defines multiple windows 146'-148' (Fig. 23) engaging the indicia panel 130 for containing light from each of the light sources 129 (Fig. 17) as each window area is illuminated. The housing 116 and the bezel 117 snap together and are shaped to compress together the mirror subassembly 120, the

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 3

indicia panel 130, the printed circuit board 119, and the light seal 134, thus compressing the light seal 134 to assure good contact by the light seal 134.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10 with the following:

--A light-absorbing layer 145 of ink, film, paint, or the like is applied to a back surface of the body panel 140. The light-absorbing (i.e., opaque) layer 145 accurately forms relatively small and well-defined windows 146-148 on the body panel 140. One or more layers of semitransparent or translucent material 149-153 (i.e., non-opaque) are applied onto the body panel 140 in the area of windows 146-148 to form the indicia of the present visual display. It is contemplated that the materials 149-153 have properties allowing them to be accurately applied to form detailed symbols, such as by known printing and symbol forming, film applying processes. For example, it is contemplated that the ink could be applied by a multi-coating printing process, or even by an ink-jet printer or copying/duplicating machine. The illustrated black material 149 includes apertures that form clear lettering. The layer 150 is applied behind the clear lettering and is translucent white, such that the words "PASSENGER AIR BAG" appear when the window 146 is luminated. The material 151 is also white and shows through as a symbol of a person with an air bag inflated in front of the person, but it is contemplated that the material 151 could of course be colored (e.g., orange or red) to highlight and distinguish the symbol. The materials 152 and 153 form letters for the words "on" and "off," which are visible only when the individual window 147 or window 148 are luminated.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 27 with the following:

--It is specifically contemplated that aspects of the present invention can be utilized advantageously in different mirror constructions. One such mirror is illustrated in Fig. 26, and includes a front-mounted indicia panel 130A adheringly attached to a front surface of the front transparent element 121A. In mirror 115A, components and features that are identical or similar to the features and components of mirror 115 are identified by the same number, ~~but with the addition of the letter A.~~--